

## Message Text

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JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-15

NSC-10 SCI-06 OMB-01 SS-15 HEW-08 DODE-00 L-03 AID-20

DRC-01 /143 W

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P R 111755Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4699

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 LONDON 11793

E.TWM 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL  
CONFERENCE ON NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS

REF: (A) STATE 157253, (B) LONDON 10970

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF UK PAPER ON SUBJECT OF USE OF  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN COMBATting DRUGS, AS REQUESTED  
IN REF (A). UK BACKGROUND PAPER WAS SUBMITTED IN  
REF (B).

2. BEGIN TEXT. "SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE  
INVESTIGATION OF DRUG OFFENCES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

"FORENSIC SCIENCE

"THE USE OF FORENSIC SCIENCE IN THE INVESTIGATION  
OF NARCOTIC ABUSE HAS, AT THE PRESENT TIME, TWO  
ASPECTS - ONE CONCERNING THOSE CASES IN WHICH A SPECIFIC  
IDENTIFICATION IS REQUIRED, FOR EXAMPLE, THE CHEMICAL  
IDENTIFICATION OF A DRUG, AND THOSE CASES WHERE ONLY A  
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COMPARISON IS REQUIRED SUCH AS IN THE STUDY OF PUNCH

MARKS ON TABLETS TO SHOW A COMMON ORIGIN. THESE TWO TYPES OF INVESTIGATION ARE ALSO THE BASIS OF FORENSIC SCIENCE. "LOCAD'S PRINCIPLE", IE, WHEN TWO OBJECTS COME

INTO CONTACT AN EXCHANGE OF MATERIAL OCCURS BETWEEN THEM IS THE PRINCIPLE ON WHICH THE BULK OF SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATIONS INTO CRIME ARE BASED AND COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF PAINT CHIPS, SPICULES OF GLASS, PLASTICS, WOOD FRAGMENTS, HAIRS, FIBRES, BLOOD SPOTS, ETC, ARE ROUTINE PROCEDURES IN A FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORY. IN ADDITION, THE COMPARISON OF MARKS WITH TOOLS SUSPECTED OF HAVING MADE THE MARKS AND BULLETS WITH WEAPONS, ARE EXACTLY SIMILAR PROCEDURES TO THOSE ALREADY PRACTISED BY NARCOTIC ANALYSTS TO STUDY COMMON ORIGINS OF TABLET MAKING MACHINES.

"IT IS SUGGESTED THAT MORE USE COULD BE MADE OF FORENSIC SCIENCE IN THE NARCOTIC AREA, BECAUSE, IN THE PREPARATION, HANDLING AND SHIPMENT OF DRUGS, CROSS EXAMINATION BETWEEN CRIMINALS INVOLVED AND THEIR ENVIRONMENTS WITH THE SEIZED DRUGS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE AREAS WHERE ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE, BOTH OF INVESTIGATIONAL AND CONFIRMATORY TYPES, MAY BE OBTAINED. ALTHOUGH A FEW EXAMPLES OF THIS TYPE OF EVIDENCE BEING USEFUL ARE KNOWN, THEY ARE RARE AND A CLOSE STUDY OF THEIR POTENTIAL VALUE IS INDICATED. THERE ALSO SEEMS TO BE A DANGER IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES OF FORENSIC SCIENCE BEING DIVORCED FROM NARCOTIC ANALYSIS. IN THE UNITED KINGDOM THIS IS LESS LIKELY TO HAPPEN BECAUSE BOTH TYPES OF ANALYSES ARE DONE IN GOVERNMENT FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORIES, ALTHOUGH ILEARLY VERY ILOSE LIAISON BETWEEN THIS WORK ANE THAT STR HM CUSTOMS, WHICH IS DONE BY THE GOVERNMENT CHEMIST'S LABORATORY, A PART OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, HAS TO BE MAINTAINED.

"THE TRAINING OF INVESTIGATORS TO MAKE THEM AWARE OF THE POTENTIAL USE OF ANALYSES OF SUCH TRACE MATERIALS AS WOOE, PAINT, HAIRS AND FIBRES, DOCUMENTS, POLLENS AND PLASTICS IN NARCOTIC INVESTIGATIONS IS ESSENTIAL AND CLEARLY DEFINED CHANNELS FOR MAKING USE OF FORENSIC UNCLASSIFIED

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SCIENTISTS MUST BE SET UP.

"INFORMATION SERVICES

"THE HOME OFFICE CENTRAL RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT AT ALDERMASTON PROVIDES THE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FACILITIES FOR THE FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND IN ADDITION, IT PROVIDES A LABORATORY

INTELLIGENCE FACILITY SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE SPECIAL  
TESTING LABORATORY OF THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY IN  
  
WASHINGTON.

(#) WZAS WELL AS THESE TASKS IT ALSO PROVIDES AN  
INFORMATION SERVICE. THIS SERVICE HAS TO PROVIDE UP-TO-  
DATE INFORMATION REGARDING PUBLISHED WORK IN MANY

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DIVERSE ASPECTS, TOGETHER WITH BANKS OF ANALYTICAL DATA  
FOR A VARIETY OF INSTRUMENTS.

"IT IS A MAJOR TASK TO READ THE WORLD'S SCIENTIFIC  
LITERATURE AND TO SELECT ARTICLES OF INTEREST TO THE  
FORENSIC SCIENTISTS. THIS CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED BY  
REFERENCE TO THE MAJOR COLLECTIONS OF ABSTRACTED  
INFORMATION WHICH ARE SIFTED EITHER MANUALLY AT THE

CENTRAL RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT OR BY THE UKCIS COMPUTER AGENCY. IN THIS WAY, APPROXIMATELY 200 PAPERS ARE EXTRACTED EACH MONTH AND OF THE ORDER OF 16,000 PAPERS ARE NOW ON FILE.

"BASICALLY A PAPER IS REDUCED TO A SERIES OF KEYWORDS, THESE ARE WORDS WHICH IN COMBINATION WILL ADEQUATELY DESCRIBE THE CONTENTS OF THE PAPER. THESE KEYWORDS ARE STORED ON THE COMPUTER WITH A REFERENCE NUMBER OF THE PAPER. HENCE A SEARCH OF THE FILE FOR A SERIES OF KEYWORDS WILL PRODUCE REFERENCES OF ALL THE APPROPRIATE PAPERS ON FILE. SHOULD THIS SYSTEM BE UNCLASSIFIED

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OF USE TO ANY FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORY OUTSIDE THE UNITED KINGDOM, THEN IT IS POSSIBLE THAT A PACKAGE COULD BE MADE COMMERCIALY AVAILABLE. THIS PACKAGE WOULD CONTAIN THE DATA FILE AND SEARCHING PROGRAM ON MAGNETIC TAPE TOGETHER WITH MICROFILM OF THE AUTHOR, TITLE AND JOURNAL OF ALL THE PAPERS ON FILE.

"A FORENSIC SCIENTIST IS OFTEN WORKING WITH VERY SMALL SAMPLES OF MATERIAL AND HE THEREFORE NEEDS TO KNOW THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF DISCRIMINATION HE CAN ACHIEVE USING THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF ANALYTICAL SYSTEMS. THIS HAS BROUGHT ABOUT THE CONCEPT OF DISCRIMINATING POWER WHICH HAS BEEN DEVELOPED TO STATISTICALLY ASSESS THE ABILITY OF SYSTEMS TO SEPARATE ONE SUBSTANCE FROM ANOTHER CHOSEN AT RANDOM FROM THE COLLECTION.

"THE SEPARATION OF 100 COMMON BASIC DRUGS ON A LARGE NUMBER OF TLC AND GLC SYSTEMS HAS BEEN ASSESSED. THE DISCRIMINATING POWER OF THE SYSTEM AND THE DEGREE OF CORRELATION BETWEEN SYSTEMS HAS BEEN RECORDED. THIS INFORMATION IS STORED ON COMPUTER FILE TOGETHER WITH INFRA-RED SPECTRA OF SOME 2900 COMPOUNDS. THESE SPECTRA ARE STORED UNDER THE WAVELENGTH OF THE SIX MAJOR PEAKS. A PROGRAM IS AVAILABLE TO SEARCH THE FILE AND USING THIS IT IS POSSIBLE TO IDENTIFY AN UNKNOWN SPECTRUM FROM THE DATA BANK. THE COMPUTER IS PROVING ITS WORTH IN PROVIDING THE OPERATIONAL SERVICE TO INTERROGATE BEFORE ANALYSIS, DIRECT WORK DURING THE ANALYSIS AND THEN IN INTERPRETING THE RESULTS.

"DATA BANKS ALSO CAN BE GENERATED FOR A WIDE VARIETY OF TYPES OF INFORMATION AND THIS IS BEING DONE AT ALDERMASTON. CLEARLY THE FREQUENCY OF OCCURRENCES OF VARIOUS EVIDENCE TYPES SUCH AS PAINT, GLASS, BLOOD, ETC, ARE VALUABLE IN THE INTERPRETATION OF SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH BANKS USING DATA

FROM CASE RECORDS HAS STARTED AND IT IS HOPED IT WILL  
EVENTUALLY ACHIEVE COMPLETE COVERAGE.

"ANOTHER BRANCH OF THE HOME OFFICE - POLICE  
SCIENTIFIC AND DEVELOPMENT BRANCH - IS ALSO EXPERIMENTING  
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WITH A DATA RETRIEVAL SYSTEM BUT IN THIS CASE, FOR THE  
POLICE; IN THIS, INFORMATION IS STORED AS SETS OF  
ATTRIBUTE VALUE PAIRS, EG, COLOUR OF HAIR (ATTRIBUTE);  
BROWN (VALUE). ALL THE PERMISSIBLE ATTRIBUTE VALUES ARE  
LISTED BY A SYSTEM DICTIONARY WHICH ALSO DEFINES DEGREES  
OF EQUIVALENCE BETWEEN THEM, EG, 'G B H' IS AN EXACT  
EQUIVALENT OF 'GRIEVOUS BODILY HARM' BUT 'JONQUIL' IS A  
SYNONYM OF 'YELLOW'. THIS DICTIONARY CAN BE EASILY  
AMENDED BY THE USER. THOSE ATTRIBUTE VALUES WHICH ARE  
IMPORTANT DESCRIPTIONS ARE INDEXED. THAT IS TO SAY, THE  
SYSTEM MAINTAINS A TABLE OF THE RECORD LOCATIONS WHERE  
THEY APPEAR. MULTIFACTOR SEARCHING IS THEN POSSIBLE IN  
THIS AREA AS IN THE LABORATORY.

"WHAT IS NEEDED AND BEING SOUGHT IS A CAPABILITY  
OF FINDING TARGET PEOPLE ON THE BASIS OF GENERAL OR  
INCOMPLETE DESCRIPTIONS; THE LINKING OF PEOPLE ON THE  
BASIS OF LOOSE ASSOCIATIONS, ESPECIALLY WITH PLACES,  
TIMES, ADDRESSES AND VEHICLES; AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF  
SOFTWARE CAPABLE OF DISCOVERING CHAINS OF CONNECTED FACTS  
FROM THE RECORDS IN ITS ASSOCIATED STORE. FAIR PROGRESS  
IS BEING MADE WITH THIS PROJECT.

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"POLICE RESEARCH

"THE POLICE FORCES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM ARE HAVING SOME SUCCESS IN THE DETECTION OF DRUG OFFENCES USING NORMAL POLICE PROCEDURES, BUT THEY ARE ALWAYS ALERT TO NEW EQUIPMENT AND TECHNIQUES WHICH MAY BE OF ASSISTANCE.

"AS REGARDS DRUGS SUCH AS CANNABIS AND HEROIN, WHICH ARE SMUGGLED INTO THE COUNTRY, THE FIRST LINE OF DEFENCE ARE THE COASTGUARD AND HM CUSTOMS AND EXCISE, WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE LOCAL POLICE. SUSPICIOUS MOVEMENTS OF SHIPS AROUND OUR COASTS ARE REPORTED BY THE COASTGUARDS SO THAT POLICE AND CUSTOMS OFFICIALS CAN INTERCEPT ILLEGAL LANDINGS. MODERN SURVEILLANCE AIDS ARE USED BY ALL THREE BODIES TO ASSIST THEM IN THIS WORK.

"THE STUDY OF THE PATTERN OF DRUG OFFENCES WITHIN THE COUNTRY HAS BEEN GREATLY ASSISTED BY THE SETTING UP OF THE CENTRAL DRUGS INTELLIGENCE UNIT AT SCOTLAND YARD  
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SUPPORTED BY THE RESEARCH TEAMS OF THE HOME OFFICE. THIS IS HELPING POLICE FORCES AND HM CUSTOMS TO CONCENTRATE THEIR ACTIVITIES ON THE MOST PROFITABLE ENQUIRIES AND TO USE THEIR LOCAL KNOWLEDGE TO GOOD EFFECT. MOST POLICE FORCES HAVE SPECIALIST SQUADS WHICH ARE EQUIPPED TO DEAL EXCLUSIVELY WITH DRUG PROBLEMS.

"SEVERAL FORCES HAVE FOUND THAT SPECIALLY TRAINED DOGS HAVE BEEN USEFUL IN THE DETECTION OF CANNABIS AND THE DEMAND FOR THEIR SERVICES IS INCREASING. IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE IN THE LONG RUN TO REPLACE SUCH DOGS WITH INSTRUMENTS, WHICH WOULD NOT SUFFER FROM THE SAME PROBLEMS OF FATIGUE AND LOSS OF SENSITIVITY WHICH MAKE

ONLY LIMITED WORKING PERIODS POSSIBLE WITH DOGS.

"POLICE FORCES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM DO NOT MAKE MUCH USE OF DRUG IDENTIFICATION KITS AS IT IS VERY CONVENIENT FOR THEM TO SEND SAMPLES TO THEIR NEAREST FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORY FOR ACCURATE ANALYSIS. WITH THE HIGH STANDARD OF SERVICE AVAILABLE FROM THESE LABORATORIES THIS HAS PROVED A GOOD METHOD. SOME USE IS, HOWEVER, MADE OF KITS BY HM CUSTOMS AND EXCISE FOR SCREENING PURPOSES, AS THEY OFTEN HAVE A LIMITED TIME FOR THEIR INSPECTIONS IN THE VERY BUSY CONDITIONS ENCOUNTERED AT OUR PORTS AND MAIL OFFICES.

"ALTHOUGH THERE MAY BE A REQUIREMENT FOR NEW INSTRUMENTS SPECIFICALLY FOR USE IN THE FIELD IN CONNECTION WITH DRUG OFFENCES, IT IS FELT THAT THE GREATEST RETURN WILL COME FROM AN INCREASING STEADY APPLICATION OF POLICING TECHNIQUES AS ALREADY USED AGAINST THE CRIMINAL." END TEXT.

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## Message Attributes

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